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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 17, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 12 totaled an estimated 19.6 billion ton-miles, 10.9 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 50 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 909.2 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 12 totaled 435,407, up 9.8 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 0.1 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 9.5 percent in the East and 10.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings increased by 9,586 cars (8.0 percent), metallic ores showed a gain of 4,659 cars (39.9 percent), chemicals and allied products increased by 3,758 cars (15.7 percent), and loadings of metals and products were up 2,746 cars (38.4 percent). Ten of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 5 totaled 103,532 trailers and/or containers, 8.9 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 49 weeks of the year was 4,859,334 trailers and/or containers, up 2.8 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/12/87:

	Loadings in Week ended December 12, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,713	I	3,583	12.7	D	1,545	4.6
Other farm products	5,159	D	134	2.5	I	1,069	26.1
Metallic ores	16,347	I	4,659	39.9	D	783	4.6
Coal	129,399	I	9,586	8.0	I	5,887	4.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,217	I	2,074	17.1	D	152	1.1
Nonmetallic minerals	9,343	I	610	7.0	D	2,197	19.0
Grain mill products	11,480	I	111	1.0	D	214	1.8
Food and kindred products	11,469	I	122	1.1	D	141	1.2
Primary forest products	11,506	I	1,035	9.9	I	555	5.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,882	I	465	6.3	I	48	0.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,710	D	858	6.8	D	1,177	9.1
Chemicals and allied products	27,746	I	3,758	15.7	D	1,624	5.5
Petroleum products	5,175	I	979	23.3	I	323	6.7
Stone, clay and glass products	10,420	I	1,448	16.1	I	193	1.9
Coke	5,624	I	1,787	46.6	D	456	7.5
Metals and products	9,888	I	2,746	38.4	D	538	5.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,620	D	733	3.3	I	49	0.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,992	I	1,713	20.7	I	117	1.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,584	D	336	11.5	I	17	0.7
All other carloads	82,133	I	6,408	8.5	I	1,179	1.5
Total Cars Loaded	435,407	I	39,023	9.8	I	610	0.1
Corresponding week of 1986	396,384						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (50 weeks)	20,099,409	19,143,797	I 5.0

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

49 Weeks ended December 5	889.6	828.3	I 7.4
Week ended December 12	19.6	17.6	I 10.9
50 Weeks cumulative	909.2	845.9	I 7.5

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